

CONSENT DECREE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	8:03-CV-647-T-26MAP
)	
DAVID L. RIEKER,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

CONSENT DECREE

I. BACKGROUND

A. The United States of America ("United States"), on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), filed a complaint in this matter pursuant to Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. § 9607, as amended ("CERCLA"), seeking reimbursement of response costs incurred or to be incurred for response actions taken or to be taken at or in connection with the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at the Dave Chemical, Inc. Removal Action Site in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida ("the Site").

B. EPA alleges that the Site is a facility as defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9).

C. As a result of the release or threatened release of hazardous substances, EPA has taken response actions at the Site including, but not limited to, investigations, sampling events, and an emergency response action in 2000, during which approximately 30,000 gallons of chemicals

from the grounds and the warehouse were removed from the Site. In performing its response actions at the Site, EPA has incurred response costs not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan, promulgated pursuant to Section 105 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9605, and set forth at 40 C.F.R. § 300, as amended.

D. EPA alleges that Settling Defendant is a responsible party pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), and is jointly and severally liable for response costs incurred and to be incurred at the Site.

E. EPA has reviewed the Financial Information submitted by Settling Defendant to determine whether Settling Defendant is financially able to pay response costs incurred and to be incurred at the Site. Based upon this Financial Information, EPA has determined that Settling Defendant is able to pay the amounts specified in Section VI without undue financial hardship.

F. The United States and Settling Defendant agree, and this Court by entering this Consent Decree finds, that this Consent Decree has been negotiated by the Parties in good faith, that settlement of this matter will avoid prolonged and complicated litigation between the Parties, and that this Consent Decree is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest.

THEREFORE, with the consent of the Parties to this Decree, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

II. JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345 and 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613(b) and also has personal jurisdiction over Settling Defendant. Settling Defendant consents to and shall not challenge entry of this Consent Decree or this Court's jurisdiction to enter and enforce this Consent Decree.

III. PARTIES BOUND

2. This Consent Decree is binding upon the United States, and upon Settling Defendant and his heirs, successors and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate or other legal status, including, but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property, shall in no way alter the status or responsibilities of Settling Defendant under this Consent Decree.

IV. DEFINITIONS

3. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Consent Decree which are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA shall have the meaning assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Consent Decree or in any appendix attached hereto, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. "CERCLA" shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, *et seq.*
- b. "Consent Decree" shall mean this Consent Decree.
- c. "Day" shall mean a calendar day. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.
- d. "DOJ" shall mean the United States Department of Justice and any successor departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States.
- e. "EPA" shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any successor departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States.
- f. "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" shall mean the Hazardous Substance Superfund established by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 9507.

g. "Financial Information" shall mean those financial documents provided by Settling Defendant to the government, on which the government relied and for which Settling Defendant intended the government to rely on to determine his ability to pay the United States' response costs.

h. "Interest" shall mean interest at the rate specified for interest on investments of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26 U.S.C. § 9507, compounded annually on October 1 of each year, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a). The applicable rate of interest shall be the rate in effect at the time the interest accrues. The rate of interest is subject to change on October 1 of each year.

i. "Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by an Arabic numeral or an upper or lower case letter.

j. "Parties" shall mean the United States, and the Settling Defendant.

k. "Plaintiff" shall mean the United States.

l. "RCRA" shall mean the Solid Waste Disposal Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6901, *et seq.* (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).

m. "Section" shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by a Roman numeral.

n. "Settling Defendant" shall mean David L. Rieker.

o. "Site" shall mean the area of land containing the Dave Chemical, Inc. Removal Action Site, located at 8010 Anderson Road in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, and where any hazardous substances released therefrom are located.

p. "United States" shall mean the United States of America, including its

departments, agencies and instrumentalities.

V. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

4. By entering into this Consent Decree, the mutual objective of the Parties is for Settling Defendant to make a cash payment to address his liability for the Site as provided in the Covenant Not to Sue by Plaintiff in Section VIII, and subject to the Reservations of Rights by United States in Section IX.

VI. PAYMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS

5. Within 30 days of entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall pay to the EPA \$100,000.

6. Payments shall be made by FedWire Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") to the U.S. Department of Justice account in accordance with current EFT procedures, referencing USAO File Number 2003V00977, the EPA Region and Site Spill ID Number A4X7, and DOJ Case Number 90-11-3-08032. Payments shall be made in accordance with instructions provided to Settling Defendant by the Financial Litigation Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Florida following lodging of the Consent Decree. Any payment received by the Department of Justice after 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time shall be credited on the next business day.

7. At the time of payment, Settling Defendant shall send notice that payment has been made to EPA and DOJ in accordance with Section XIV (Notices and Submissions) and to

U.S. E.P.A. Region IV
ATTN: Paula Batchelor
SEIMS/SEIMB
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Elisa Roberts
Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. E.P.A. Region IV
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

8. The total amount of payment to be paid pursuant to Paragraph 5 shall be deposited in the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.

VII. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONSENT DECREE

9. Interest on Late Payments. If Settling Defendant fails to make any payment under Paragraph 5 by the required due date, Interest shall accrue on the unpaid balance through the date of payment.

10. Stipulated Penalty.

a. If any amounts due under Paragraph 5 are not paid by the required date, Settling Defendant shall be in violation of this Consent Decree and shall pay, as a stipulated penalty, in addition to the Interest required by Paragraph 9, \$100.00 per violation per day that such payment is late for the first seven days that a payment is late, and \$250.00 per violation per day on the eighth day and every day thereafter that a payment is late.

b. Stipulated penalties are due and payable within 30 days of the date of the demand for payment of the penalties by EPA. All payments to EPA under this Paragraph shall be identified as "stipulated penalties." Stipulated penalties shall be due to the "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" and payment and notice shall be made in the same manner as described above in Paragraphs 6 and 7.

c. Penalties shall accrue as provided in this Paragraph regardless of whether EPA

has notified Settling Defendant of the violation or made a demand for payment, but need only be paid upon demand. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after payment is due and shall continue to accrue through the date of payment. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Consent Decree.

11. If the United States brings an action to enforce this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall reimburse the United States for all costs of such action, including but not limited to costs of attorney time.

12. Payments made under this Section shall be in addition to any other remedies or sanctions available to Plaintiff by virtue of Settling Defendant's failure to comply with the requirements of this Consent Decree.

13. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, the United States may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive payment of any portion of the stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this Consent Decree. Payment of stipulated penalties shall not excuse Settling Defendant from payment as required by Section VI or from performance of any other requirements of this Consent Decree.

VIII. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY PLAINTIFF

14. Except as specifically provided in Section IX (Reservation of Rights by United States), the United States covenants not to sue or to take administrative action against Settling Defendant pursuant to Sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607(a), with regard to the Site. With respect to present and future liability, this covenant shall take effect upon receipt by EPA of all amounts required by Section VI (Payment of Response Costs) and any amount due under Section VII (Failure to Comply with Consent Decree). This covenant not to

sue is conditioned upon the satisfactory performance by Settling Defendant of his obligations under this Consent Decree. This covenant not to sue is also conditioned upon the veracity and completeness of the Financial Information provided to EPA by Settling Defendant. If the Financial Information is subsequently determined by EPA to be false or, in any material respect, inaccurate, Settling Defendant shall forfeit all payments made pursuant to this Consent Decree and this covenant not to sue and the contribution protection in Paragraph 21 shall be null and void. Such EPA determination may be subject to dispute resolution at the Settling Defendant's request. Such forfeiture shall not constitute liquidated damages and shall not in any way foreclose the United States' right to pursue any other causes of action arising from Settling Defendant's false or materially inaccurate information. This covenant not to sue extends only to Settling Defendant and does not extend to any other person.

IX. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS BY UNITED STATES

15. The United States reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, all rights against Settling Defendant with respect to all matters not expressly included within the Covenant Not to Sue by United States in Paragraph 14. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, the United States reserves all rights against Settling Defendant with respect to:

- a. liability for failure of Settling Defendant to meet a requirement of this Consent Decree;
- b. criminal liability;
- c. liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments;
- d. liability, based upon Settling Defendant's ownership or operation of the Site,

or upon Settling Defendant's transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal, or the arrangement for the transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal, of a hazardous substance or a solid waste at or in connection with the Site, after signature of this Consent Decree by Settling Defendant; and

e. liability arising from the past, present, or future disposal, release or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant outside of the Site.

16. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, EPA reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, the right to reinstitute or reopen this action, or to commence a new action seeking relief other than as provided in this Consent Decree, if the Financial Information provided by Settling Defendant, or the financial certification made by Settling Defendant in Paragraph 26, is false or, in an material respect, inaccurate.

X. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY SETTLING DEFENDANT

17. Settling Defendant covenants not to sue and agrees not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States, or its contractors or employees, with respect to the Site or this Consent Decree, including but not limited to:

a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement from the Hazardous Substance Superfund based on Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, or 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b)(2), 9607, 9611, 9612, or 9613, or any other provision of law;

b. any claim arising out of response actions at or in connection with the Site, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the Tucker Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1491, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, as amended, or at common law; or

c. any claim against the United States pursuant to Sections 107 and 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613, relating to the Site.

Except as provided in Paragraph 19 (Waiver of Claims) and Paragraph 23 (Waiver of Claim-Splitting Defenses), these covenants not to sue shall not apply in the event the United States brings a cause of action or issues an order pursuant to the reservations set forth in Paragraph 16 (c) - (e), but only to the extent that Settling Defendant's claims arise from the same response action or response costs that the United States is seeking pursuant to the applicable reservation.

18. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be deemed to constitute approval or preauthorization of a claim within the meaning of Section 111 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9611, or 40 C.F.R. 300.700(d).

19. Settling Defendant agrees not to assert any CERCLA claims or causes of action that it may have for all matters relating to the Site, including for contribution, against any other person. This waiver shall not apply with respect to any defense, claim, or cause of action that Settling Defendant may have against any person if such person asserts a claim or cause of action relating to the Site against Settling Defendant.

XI. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT/CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION

20. Except as provided in Paragraph 19, nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Consent Decree. The preceding sentence shall not be construed to waive or nullify any rights that any person not a signatory to this Decree may have under applicable law. Except as provided in Paragraph 19, the Parties expressly reserve any and all rights (including, but not limited to, any right to contribution), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action which they may have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Site

against any person not a Party hereto.

21. The Parties agree, and by entering this Consent Decree this Court finds, that Settling Defendant is entitled to protection from contribution actions or claims as provided by Section 113(f)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2), for "matters addressed" in this Consent Decree. The "matters addressed" in this Consent Decree are all response actions taken or to be taken and all response costs incurred or to be incurred, at or in connection with the Site, by the United States or any other person. The "matters addressed" in this Consent Decree do not include those response costs or response actions as to which the United States has reserved its rights under this Consent Decree (except for claims for failure to comply with this Decree), in the event that the United States asserts rights against Settling Defendant coming within the scope of such reservations.

22. Settling Defendant agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought by it for matters related to this Consent Decree, he will notify EPA and DOJ in writing no later than 60 days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim. Settling Defendant also agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against him for matters related to this Consent Decree, it will notify EPA and DOJ in writing within 10 days of service of the complaint or claim upon it. In addition, Settling Defendant shall notify EPA and DOJ within 10 days of service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment, and within 10 days of receipt of any order from a court setting a case for trial, for matters related to this Consent Decree.

23. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by the United States for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other relief relating to the Site, Settling Defendant shall not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon the principles

of waiver, *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the claims raised by the United States in the subsequent proceeding were or should have been brought in the instant case; provided, however, that nothing in this Paragraph affects the enforceability of the Covenant Not to Sue by Plaintiff set forth in Section VIII.

XII. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

24. Settling Defendant shall provide to EPA, upon request, testimony and copies of all records, reports, or information (hereinafter referred to as "records") within their possession or control or that of their contractors or agents relating to activities at the Site, including, but not limited to, sampling, analysis, chain of custody records, manifests, trucking logs, receipts, reports, sample traffic routing, correspondence, or other documents or information related to the Site.

25. Confidential Business Information and Privileged Documents.

a. Settling Defendant may assert business confidentiality claims covering part or all of the records submitted to Plaintiff under this Consent Decree to the extent permitted by and in accordance with Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e)(7), and 40 C.F.R.

2.203(b). Records determined to be confidential by EPA will be accorded the protection specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies records when they are submitted to EPA, or if EPA has notified Settling Defendant that the records are not confidential under the standards of Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA or 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B, the public may be given access to such records without further notice to Settling Defendant.

b. Settling Defendant may assert that certain records are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If Settling Defendant asserts such a privilege in lieu of providing records, he shall provide Plaintiff with the following: 1) the title of the record; 2) the date of the record; 3) the name and title of the author of the record; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of the subject of the record; and 6) the privilege asserted. However, no records created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this or any other settlement with the United States shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

26. No claim of confidentiality shall be made with respect to any data, including but not limited to, all sampling, analytical, monitoring, hydrogeologic, scientific, chemical, or engineering data, or any other records evidencing conditions at or around the Site.

XIII. RETENTION OF RECORDS

27. Until 5 years after the entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall preserve and retain all records now in his possession or control, or which come into its possession or control, that relate in any manner to response actions taken at the Site or the liability of any person under CERCLA with respect to the Site, regardless of any corporate retention policy to the contrary.

28. After the conclusion of the document retention period in the preceding paragraph, Settling Defendant shall notify EPA and DOJ at least 90 days prior to the destruction of any such records, and, upon request by EPA or DOJ, Settling Defendant shall deliver any such records to EPA. Settling Defendant may assert that certain records are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If Settling Defendant asserts such a

privilege, he shall provide Plaintiff with the following: 1) the title of the record; 2) the date of the record; 3) the name and title of the author of the record; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of the subject of the record; and 6) the privilege asserted. However, no records created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this or any other settlement with the United States shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

29. Settling Defendant hereby certifies that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, after thorough inquiry, he has:

a. not altered, mutilated, discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of any records, reports, or other information relating to its potential liability regarding the Site since notification of potential liability by the United States or the State or the filing of suit against him regarding the Site, and that he has fully complied with any and all EPA requests for information regarding the Site and Settling Defendant's financial circumstances pursuant to Sections 104(e) and 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e) and 9622(e), and Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6927; and

b. submitted to EPA Financial Information that fairly, accurately, and materially sets forth its financial circumstances, and that those circumstances have not materially changed between the time the Financial Information was submitted to EPA and the time Settling Defendant executes this Consent Decree.

XIV. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS

30. Whenever, under the terms of this Consent Decree, notice is required to be given or a document is required to be sent by one party to another, it shall be directed to the individuals at the addresses specified below, unless those individuals or their successors give notice of a change

to the other Parties in writing. Written notice as specified herein shall constitute complete satisfaction of any written notice requirement of the Consent Decree with respect to the United States, EPA, DOJ, and Settling Defendant, respectively.

As to DOJ:

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice (DJ # 90-11-3-08032)
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

As to EPA:

U.S. E.P.A. Region IV
ATTN: Paula Batchelor
SEIMS/SEIMB
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Elisa Roberts
Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. E.P.A., Region IV
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

As to Settling Defendant:

David L. Rieker
2621 Lamplighter Drive
New Port Richey, Florida 34655

George Gramling, Esq.
Frank & Gramling
118 South Newport Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33606

XV. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

31. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter for the purpose of interpreting and enforcing the terms of this Consent Decree.

XVI. LODGING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

32. This Consent Decree shall be lodged with the Court for a period of not less than 30 days for public notice and comment. The United States reserves the right to withdraw or withhold its consent if the comments regarding the Consent Decree disclose facts or considerations which indicate that this Consent Decree is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Settling Defendant consents to the entry of this Consent Decree without further notice.

33. If for any reason this Court should decline to approve this Consent Decree in the form presented, this Consent Decree is voidable at the sole discretion of any party and the terms of the Consent Decree may not be used as evidence in any litigation between the Parties.

XVII. SIGNATORIES/SERVICE

34. Each undersigned representative of Settling Defendant to this Consent Decree and the Deputy Chief for the Environmental Enforcement Section of the United States Department of Justice certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and to execute and bind legally such Party to this document.

35. Settling Defendant hereby agrees not to oppose entry of this Consent Decree by this Court or to challenge any provision of this Consent Decree, unless the United States has notified Settling Defendant in writing that it no longer supports entry of the Consent Decree.

36. Settling Defendant shall identify, on the attached signature page, the name and address of an agent who is authorized to accept service of process by mail on his behalf with

respect to all matters arising under or relating to this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant hereby agrees to accept service in that manner and to waive the formal service requirements set forth in Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any applicable local rules of this Court, including but not limited to, service of a summons. The Parties agree that Settling Defendant need not file an answer to the complaint in this action unless or until the Court expressly declines to enter this Consent Decree.

XVIII. FINAL JUDGMENT

37. Upon approval and entry of this Consent Decree by the Court, this Consent Decree shall constitute the final judgment between the United States and Settling Defendant. The Court finds that there is no just reason for delay and therefore enters this judgment as a final judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 54 and 58.

SO ORDERED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 200_.

United States District Judge

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES enter into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States v. David L. Rieker, 8:03-CV-647-T-26MAP, relating to the Dave Chemical, Inc. Removal Action Site.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Paul Ignatius Perez,
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Middle District of Florida

Warren Zimmerman,
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Environmental Protection Agency

Elisa Roberts,
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61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States v. David L. Rieker, 8:03-CV-647-T-26MAP, relating to the Dave Chemical, Inc. Removal Action Site.

FOR DEFENDANT ~~David L. Rieker~~

Date: 3/23/04

David L. Rieker
2621 Lamplighter Drive
New Port Richey, Florida 34655

Agent Authorized to Accept Service on Behalf of Above-signed Party:

Name:

Title:

Address: